

guardian to purchase this license. Youngsters 12 and 13 are restricted to archery-only hunting. Nonresidents under 17 are allowed to purchase a resident license.

Antler Restriction Regulations

Tagging Option for Antlerless Deer Hunters

An antlerless deer hunter, with an unused antlerless kill tag for the DMU in which hunting **and** an unused antlered deer license (firearm or combination) appropriate for the season in which hunting, may tag a male antlerless deer with the antlered deer license. **Note:** Both licenses must be in the hunter's possession at the time of harvest. All deer must be immediately tagged.

A male antlerless deer means a male deer without antlers or with antlers where the longest antler extends less than three inches above the skull.

"No Spike" Regulation For Archery and Firearm Hunters

Persons hunting South Fox Island (DMU 245), Drummond Island (DMU 117) and DMU 135 are permitted to only take an antlered deer if it has two or more antler points on one side, each one or more inches in length. Your archery license, or combination license when used as an archery tag, is still valid for taking an antlerless deer in these three units.

Experimental Deer Management Unit Regulations

Persons hunting in DMUs 045, 122, 152, 155 and 252 are permitted to only take an antlered deer if it has three or more antler points on one side, each one or more inches in length. Your archery license, or combination license when used as an archery tag, is still valid for taking an antlerless deer in these units.

Special Deer Hunts

South Fox Island Deer Hunting

Deer hunting permits are available for South Fox Island during archery season from October 1-28 and/or firearm season beginning October 29 through November 26. For information, contact: DNR Operations Service Center, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601; 231-775-9727.

North Manitou Island Hunts

Licenses for the archery, October 1-16, muzzleloading, October 17-23, and regular, October 23-November 6, deer hunting seasons will be awarded by lottery. The application deadline for the primitive seasons is September 24 and October 16 for the regular season. The application fee is \$25 per hunter. For information, contact the Park Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630; 231-326-5134, or at www.nps.gov/slbe.

Shiawassee River State Game Area Deer Hunting

Contact the DNR Field Office (225 E. Spruce Street, St. Charles, MI 48655) at 989-865-6211. The deadline for application is September 10, 2005.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting

Contact the SNWR (6975 Mower Rd., Saginaw, MI 48601) at 989-777-5930.

Allegan State Game Area Refuge

Contact the DNR Field Office (4590 118th Ave., Allegan, MI 49010) at 269-673-2430. The deadline for application is September 10, 2005.

Hoffmaster State Park

Contact the park office at 231-798-3711. This park may be scheduling a managed antlerless deer hunt.

Late Firearm Antlerless Deer Season

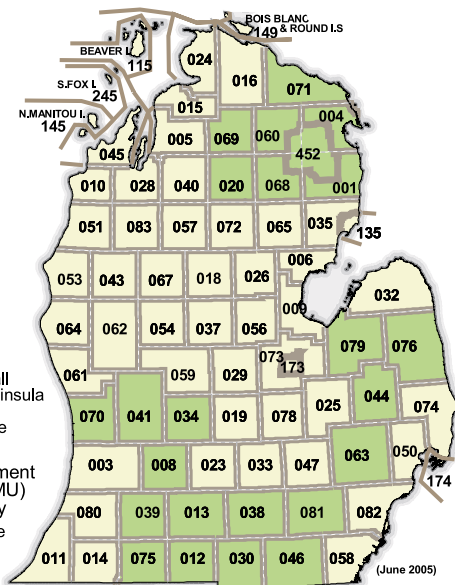
A late antlerless deer season will take place on private land in some Lower Peninsula DMUs from December 19, 2005 through January 1, 2006. The DMUs that will be open are shaded on the map at right. Hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license (or DMA permit, see above) for one of the open

DMUs with an unused kill tag issued in their name to participate in this hunt. Deer may be taken with a bow and arrow or firearm. The regular unit/land restrictions for antlerless licenses apply.

Note: DMA permits are not stand-alone licenses. To hunt deer with a DMA permit, you must have purchased a regular firearm, combination, archery or antlerless deer license for the season in which you are hunting.

Legend

- Open on Private Lands
- Closed Including all Upper Peninsula areas, not shown here
- Deer Management Unit (DMU) Boundary
- County Line



Deer Cooperator Patches

Cooperator patches have been used since 1972 as an incentive for successful hunters to bring their deer to DNR offices and other check stations. By examining hunter harvested deer, wildlife biologists gain valuable biological information that can be used to manage Michigan's deer herd. Hunters wishing to receive a patch must check their deer by January 10, 2006. A deer head must be presented to receive a patch. Patches will not be available by mail.

For a list of deer check stations including hours and dates of operation, visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr. Hunters are strongly urged to call ahead whenever possible to confirm hours and days of operation.



Baiting Deer and Feeding Deer or Elk

“Baiting” is defined as putting out food materials for deer to attract, lure, or entice them as an aid in hunting.

“Feeding” is defined as placing food materials out that attract deer or elk for any other reason, such as recreational viewing.

Deer baiting and the feeding of deer or elk is illegal in Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. In all other counties the rules for baiting and feeding are as follows:

Baiting: (Deer only. Elk baiting is illegal in Michigan.)

- Baiting may occur only from October 1 to January 1.
- The bait material may be of any food type.
- The volume of bait at any hunting site cannot exceed two gallons.
- The bait must be dispersed over a minimum of a 10-foot x 10-foot area.
- The bait must be scattered directly on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- Food plots, naturally occurring foods, standing agricultural crops, or food placed as a result of using normal agricultural practices are not considered to be baiting.

Feeding for Recreational Viewing: (Deer and Elk.)

- The volume of feed at any residence cannot exceed two gallons.
- The feed must be scattered or dispersed at least 100 yards from any area accessible to cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses, or captive cervidae and no more than 100 yards from a residence on land owned or possessed by that person.
- The feed must be scattered on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum daily volume allowed.
- Any type of food material can be used.
- Food plots, naturally occurring foods, standing agricultural crops, or food placed as a result of using normal agricultural practices are not considered to be feeding.

Bovine Tuberculosis

In 2004, bovine TB was found in 28 white-tailed deer from five counties in Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle. Statewide, 15,130 deer were tested.

Since 1995, a total of 509 white-tailed deer have been found positive from 138,531 deer surveyed. Four elk, 19 coyote, 7 black bear, 4 bobcat, 2 opossum, 8 raccoon and 3 red fox have tested positive, and the disease has been found in 26 beef herds, 7 dairy herds and 1 privately owned cervid herd.

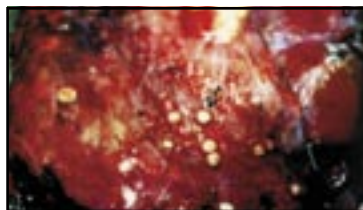
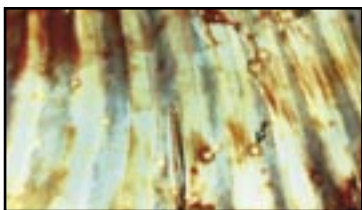
The DNR is again urging hunters to submit their deer for free TB testing this fall if it was taken in these counties in the Lower Peninsula: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon.

As a part of Michigan's strategy to eliminate tuberculosis in deer and elk, hunting regulations in a seven-county area, which includes Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties, have been designed to reduce the deer population which will help decrease possible transmission of the disease. Feeding and baiting is illegal in these counties.

What Hunters Should Look for When Field Dressing Deer

Deer with severe TB may have tan or yellow lumps lining the chest wall and in the lung tissue. If you see a deer with this type of infection, contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined.

Hunters taking deer in any of the counties listed above should turn in the deer's head for testing whether these signs of infection are present or not. Only 40 percent of the TB positive deer had lesions in the chest cavity or lungs that would be recognized as unusual by most hunters. (See photos below.)



Tuberculosis-infected deer may have multiple pea-sized tan or yellow lumps on the inside of the ribcage (left) or inside or on the lungs (right). The lesions may be different shapes and sizes than shown.

For more information, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030, e-mail fierkej@michigan.gov or visit the Michigan Bovine TB Eradication Project's Web site at www.michigan.gov/bovinetb. Hunters may check their deer's TB and CWD lab results at this Web site or at michigan.gov/dnr (under "Hunting").

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a disease of the nervous system that was first diagnosed at a research facility in Colorado in 1967. CWD has been diagnosed in wild mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk. It also has been discovered in captive cervids (deer and elk) in several states and in Canada. CWD in deer and elk is characterized by emaciation, drooling, behavioral

abnormalities and death. Currently, there is no reliable live animal testing available for diagnosing CWD, nor is there a treatment available. According to public health officials, there is no evidence that CWD can be naturally transmitted to humans, or to animals other than deer and elk.

CWD poses a serious threat to the health of Michigan's deer and elk (cervids) populations, both free-ranging and captive. Infection of free-ranging cervid populations may lead to a long-lasting, localized area of disease. Implications of the disease can be serious. Although the long-term effects on the dynamics of these populations are not known, research suggests that they could be dramatically negative. Surveillance and control programs necessitated by CWD are demanding of both monetary and personnel resources of wildlife management agencies, which often are quite limited. Perhaps, most ominously, public and agency concerns about potential human health risks associated with CWD, while groundless, may nevertheless undermine participation in hunting, with potentially marked effects on local and state economies, habitat degradation and the ability of wildlife agencies to manage free-ranging cervid herds. Michigan is taking several steps to prevent the occurrence of CWD in the state:

- The importation of captive cervids has been banned.
- A contingency plan to manage CWD in the event of its discovery in Michigan has been developed by veterinarians and biologists.
- Hunters harvesting deer and elk in CWD states are restricted as to what game parts can be imported into Michigan.
- Michigan has been conducting CWD testing of deer and elk since 1998. Surveillance is needed to determine whether CWD currently exists in free-ranging deer or elk in Michigan, and its geographic extent, if present.

MI CWD Surveillance

A total of 17,797 deer, elk and moose have been tested for CWD and CWD has not been found in Michigan.

The DNR conducts two types of surveillance:

- Targeted surveillance involves ongoing activities to identify and test free-ranging cervids statewide that have been observed as showing symptoms consistent with CWD. If a deer or elk is observed exhibiting signs of CWD, particularly behavioral changes such as incoordination and loss of fear, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 or the nearest DNR Operations Service Center. After hours, reports should be made to the DNR RAP line at 800-292-7800.
- Active surveillance is the testing of outwardly healthy cervids harvested by hunters. Deer heads will be tested from all 83 counties, with 10 per county tested from the lower peninsula and 20 per county tested from the upper peninsula. The heads of deer and elk will be collected by DNR personnel at check stations. All deer heads submitted for CWD will also be automatically tested for bovine TB.

Hunters Importing Deer or Elk

Hunters importing a free-ranging deer or elk from Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming, or Saskatchewan are restricted to bringing into Michigan only deboned meat, antlers, antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue,

(continued on page 22)

hides cleaned of excess tissue or blood, upper canine teeth or a finished taxidermic mount.

If you are notified by another state or province that a deer or elk you brought into Michigan tested positive for CWD, you must contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab within two business days (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at 517-336-5030 and provide all information requested by the Lab.

Any changes to importation regulations will be posted at www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease. In addition, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture may have importation from Canada regulations. Contact them at 301-734-3277.

Although there is no evidence that CWD affects humans, the DNR advises hunters who take deer originating from states or provinces where CWD has been found, to take these safety precautions in addition to those listed on pages 22-23:

- Minimize handling brain or spinal cord tissues.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes of harvested animals.

For more information, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030, e-mail fierkej@michigan.gov or visit www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease. Hunters may check their deer or elk's CWD and TB lab results at this Web site or at www.michigan.gov/dnr (under "Hunting").

Understanding West Nile Virus

There have been cases of human infection occurring when laboratory personnel have accidentally cut themselves while examining infected birds. Therefore, as a precaution against blood-borne pathogens (both viral and bacterial), hunters should wear rubber or latex gloves when handling, cleaning, and butchering dead animals. Tools used when processing gamebirds should be disinfected after use with bleach (10% solution) and washed in soapy water.

No humans have been infected by consuming the meat of an infected bird. However, the meat of birds should be cooked thoroughly; heating to an internal temperature of 170 to 180° F. Cooking to this temperature will kill West Nile Virus as well as other bacteria, eliminating any risk of infection.

If you see a turkey that appears to be acting abnormally (inability to fly, abnormal head posture, disoriented, having seizures), we are interested in testing this bird for West Nile Virus. Please contact your local DNR Field Office to report sightings of sick or dead birds or mammals. More information and DNR Field Office locations are available online at

www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.

Precautions When Processing Wild Game

- Hunters should not handle or consume wild animals that appear sick or act abnormally, regardless of the cause.
- Always wear heavy rubber or latex gloves when field dressing deer.
- If intestinal contents contact meat, consider the meat contaminated; cut off and discard affected area.

- Handle carcasses properly. Cool carcass rapidly in the field (bags of ice can hasten cooling). Age carcass at or below 40°F for no longer than 5-7 days. Hang birds by feet at less than 40°F for 2-3 days maximum.

Safety Practices When Cooking Venison

- The Michigan Department of Community Health recommends proper food safety practices when cooking venison, as well as any other meat or poultry. Thoroughly cooking meat is important to reduce the likelihood of any bacterial disease. All meat, including venison, should be cooked until the meat is no longer pink and the juices run clear. If cooked according to the chart below, the likelihood of any disease transmission to individuals consuming this meat is extremely small.
- Hold meat at or below 40°F at all times. If you don't plan to consume or process meat within 3-5 days, freeze it. Thaw frozen meat only in the refrigerator, never at room temperature.
 - Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling meat and poultry.
 - Sanitize equipment and work surfaces often during handling and processing meat and poultry with a bleach solution (1 Tbs. bleach to 1 gallon water).
 - Use a meat thermometer to cook meat to proper internal temperatures (see chart). There are several types of meat thermometers available, which are easy to use and can be read instantly or remain in meat while it cooks. This helps ensure harmful bacteria are killed and meat is not overcooked. The color of meat is an unreliable indicator of doneness.
 - For jerky, steam, boil or roast meat to 165°F using a meat thermometer prior to dehydrating. Dry at 130°-140°F until thoroughly dry. Jerky is properly dry when it cracks on bending but doesn't break.
 - For sausage preparation, keep meat cold (under 40° F) during grinding process and ensure internal temperature reaches 165°F with meat thermometer during cooking.

For more information on venison field dressing, meat preparation and recipes, see the Michigan State University Extension publication, *Michigan Venison*.

Recommended Minimum Internal Cooking Temperature for Venison and Poultry	
Type of meat	Temperature (°F)
Ground venison, sausage, bologna	165°
Fresh venison (chops, steaks, roasts)	165°
Poultry	
Breast	170°
Whole bird	180°

2005-2006 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

Species	Bag Limit	Zone (page 7)	Season		
			Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Black Bear	1	See note 1	Sept. 10 - Oct. 26		
Cottontail Rabbit and Varying Hare	5 per day 10 combined possession	Statewide			
Crow	No Limit	Zone 1 Zones 2,3	Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Aug. 1-Sept. 30		
Deer	If you take 2 antlered deer, see pages 16-17 for minimum antler size requirements.	Statewide			
Youth Deer				Sept. 24 - 25	
Special Disabled Firearm Hunt	1 per kill tag	Statewide See page 15		Oct. 15 - 16	
Archery	1 per kill tag	Statewide		Oct. 1 - Nov. 14	
Regular Firearm	1 per kill tag	Statewide			
Muzzleloading	1 per kill tag	Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3			
Late Firearm	1 per kill tag	See note 4			
Elk	1	See note 1	Aug. 27 - 31 & Sept. 9 - 12		
Pheasant (male)	2 per day 4 possession	Zone 1 Zones 2,3 Zone 3		Oct. 10 - 11	
Quail	5 per day 10 possession	See page 28		Oct. 20 - Nov. 14	
Ruffed Grouse	See note 7	Statewide	Sept. 15 - Nov. 14		
Squirrel (black phase included)	5 per day 10 possession	Statewide			
Mourning Dove				Season Closed. 9/15/05	
Fall Wild Turkey	1	See note 8		Oct. 3 - Nov. 14	
Woodcock	3 per day 6 possession	Statewide		Sept. 24 - Nov. 7	

No closed season on opossum, porcupine, weasel, red squirrel, skunk, starling, feral pigeons, E. be taken year-round with a valid small game hunting license. See state parks and recreation area for more information.

nd Bag Limits

Season Dates					
Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Notes
					1
	Sept. 15 - Mar. 31				
			Feb. 1 - Mar. 31		2
	Dec. 1-Jan. 1				3
	Nov. 15 - 30				3
	Dec. 2 - 11				3
	Dec. 9 - 18				
	Dec. 2 - 18				
		Dec. 19 - Jan. 1			4
	Dec. 7 - 14	Jan. 15 - 19			1
Oct. 31					5,6
Oct. 20 - Nov. 14					
	Dec. 1 - Jan. 1				
14					
	Dec. 1 - Jan. 1				7
	Sept. 15 - March 1				
See page 28.					
					8
					9

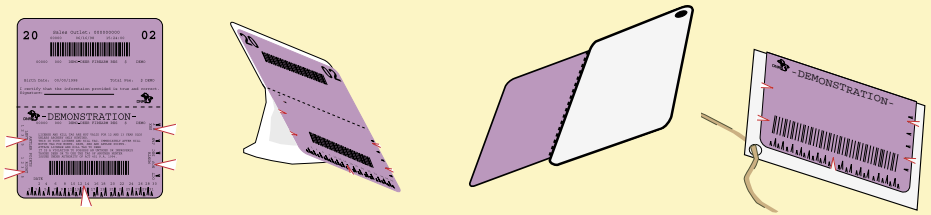
Notes:

1. See the 2005 Bear Hunting Guide or 2005 Elk Hunting Guide for more information. Also see page 3 for new bear regulations.
2. Crows may be taken outside the open season during hunting hours, in compliance with federal regulations, if these birds are causing a nuisance or creating a health hazard.
3. See page 17 for antler restriction regulations in DMUs 045, 117, 122, 135, 152, 155, 245 and 252.
4. Antlerless deer on private land only. See page 18 for open DMUs.
5. Zone 1 is open only in an area bordered by M-189 on the west and south of M-69 and US-2 from Iron River to Escanaba.
6. See December Pheasant Season map on page 28.
7. Zones 1 and 2: five per day/10 in possession. Zone 3: three per day/six in possession.
8. See the 2005 Fall Wild Turkey Guide for more information.
9. Shotguns must be plugged so they are capable of holding no more than three shells. A federal waterfowl stamp is not required to hunt woodcock. HIP endorsement required. See page 29.

English sparrow, ground squirrel and woodchuck. These may have restrictions on page 45.

Kill Tag Backer

Kill tag backers are available from license dealers for the 2005 hunting seasons. Follow these easy steps to properly validate and attach your kill tag. It will enable DNR personnel to scan the bar code at check stations to improve data collection.



1. Cut appropriate information to identify the animal.
2. Peel paper backing off the kill tag.
3. Lay the kill tag backer across the sticky side of the tag.
4. Fold the kill tag in half along the perforation.
5. Insert a strong piece of wire or cord through the hole in the kill tag backer and tie it securely to the animal. Make sure the kill tag is completely visible for inspection.

Quality Deer Management

The DNR supports the voluntary implementation of Quality Deer Management in Michigan. QDM is an approach that restricts the buck harvest and sustains antlerless harvest to produce a more balanced sex ratio in the herd and a population in balance with the habitat. Successful implementation of QDM requires three factors:

- a) support of both landowners and hunters who would be affected,
- b) regulations that are understandable and enforceable,
- c) a sufficient trial period for the regulations to show an impact.

After a proposal is submitted, the DNR conducts a survey in the proposed area to assess support for the proposed regulations. When a clear majority (66 percent) of both hunters and landowners support implementation, the proposed regulations will be submitted for approval by the Natural Resources Commission. If approved, the proposed regulations will take effect the following deer hunting seasons, for a five-year period. Collection of biological data from 100 bucks and 200 antlerless deer each year is required by the sponsoring group to help evaluate the impact of these regulations. The biological and social aspects of the regulations will be re-evaluated in the fifth year of the regulations.

There are no QDM proposals for 2005.

For more information on the QDM process, contact the DNR Wildlife Division, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7544; 517-373-1263, or log on to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Hunters, Learn to Identify “Button Bucks”

Each year many hunters harvest buck fawns, commonly called “button bucks” on antlerless deer licenses. Though perfectly legal, harvesting these deer reduces the number of bucks for the future. By learning the difference between adult does and buck fawns and observing these suggestions, hunters can make a conscious choice on whether to harvest a buck fawn.

- Button bucks often travel alone, but adult does rarely do. Consider this when you observe a single antlerless deer.
- Wait until several deer are together; then harvest one of the larger antlerless deer.
- Look at body shapes of deer. Adult does are different in shape from juvenile deer. The mature doe is rectangular in shape with a long neck and face. Fawns are square shaped and have a short neck and face.
- If two juvenile deer are without an adult, one will probably be a button buck.

Normally the young male is larger than the female and may be mistaken for an adult doe because of its larger size. Look at the head of the deer. A doe’s head normally is more rounded on top between the ears because a buck’s head is flattened by the base of the antlers.

- Look closely with binoculars for the antler bases on button bucks.
- Wait until the deer are standing or moving slowly. It is easier to identify sex and age when deer are not running or moving fast.
- Shoot with good visibility. Poor light or heavy cover make it difficult to determine sex and age.

Hunters, Do NOT Move Firewood

Hunters can assist in the effort to stop the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Michigan by leaving firewood at home and buying it after you reach your destination. Moving firewood can potentially spread EAB and puts Michigan’s 700 million ash trees at risk. Hunters are reminded that Michigan has a quarantine in place prohibiting the movement of all non-coniferous (hardwood) firewood out of quarantined areas. The movement of non-coniferous firewood into the Upper Peninsula is also illegal. Violation of the quarantine carries a minimum fine of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment. For more information, visit www.emeraldashborer.info, or call the EAB hotline at 866-325-0023.

Protected Wildlife

Eagles, hawks, owls, swans, spruce and sharp-tailed grouse, wolverines, wolves, lynx, moose, cougars, cub bears, and sows accompanied by cubs, and all white or albino deer may not be taken at any time. All nongame birds are protected, except starlings, English sparrows and feral pigeons.

Certain **exotic** cervids (members of the deer and elk family) found outside of a fence of a registered cervidae facility for more than 12 hours may be taken by hunting year-round. Please contact the nearest DNR Operations Service Center for further information.

Black Bear, Elk, Wild Turkey and Early Canada Goose

Regulations for hunting black bear, elk, wild turkey and early Canada goose are detailed in separate publications available at license dealers, DNR Operations Service Centers and on the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Small Game

A small game license entitles you to hunt rabbit, hare, squirrel, pheasant, ruffed grouse, woodcock, quail, woodchuck, crow, skunk, coyote (applies to Michigan residents only) and waterfowl (with a federal waterfowl stamp and Michigan waterfowl hunting license, if age 16 or older) during the open season. No license is required for a resident, resident's spouse or resident's children to hunt small game on the enclosed farmlands where they live, except a federal waterfowl stamp and state waterfowl license are required to hunt waterfowl.

Quail

Quail can be hunted only in Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Montcalm, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. All other counties are closed to quail hunting.

Pheasant

The shaded area shown at right is open to pheasant hunting December 1-January 1 for the taking of male pheasants.



Mourning Dove

The Michigan Board of State Canvassers determined enough signatures were received to invoke a referendum. Therefore, no mourning dove hunting seasons will be held until the issue is decided by voters in the November 2006 general election.

Waterfowl

Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License

In addition to a small game license, all waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase a Michigan Waterfowl License. For information on waterfowl seasons, bag limits and other regulations, see the 2005-2006 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide (available Sept. 10) and the 2005 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt brochure (available Aug. 1).

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

This stamp is required for all waterfowl hunters 16 and older, including people hunting on their own enclosed farmland. Federal waterfowl stamps are not required for hunting doves, woodcock, rails and snipe. The federal stamp must be signed across its face with your name in ink. The stamps are available at post offices and some Michigan license dealers.

Migratory Game Birds

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

If you are planning to hunt any migratory birds (ducks, geese, doves, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.) in Michigan this fall, you must have a Harvest Information Program endorsement printed on your small game license. The HIP endorsement automatically is included with the purchase of every waterfowl hunting license. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated its intent to enforce this requirement throughout all 50 states. Persons who are hunting migratory birds without this endorsement can be fined.

The HIP survey is important to state and federal efforts to manage migratory birds. The HIP endorsement, which consists of the statement: "Migratory Bird Hunter—YES," is printed on your small game license when you answer the HIP survey questions. There is no cost for this endorsement. If the license dealer fails to ask you the HIP question, you can do any of the following to receive the endorsement:

- Ask the agent to reissue the license.
- Visit the DNR e-license Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr and select item # 005—HIP migratory bird survey.
- Visit any DNR Operations Service Center.

Gamebird Hunting Preserves

All persons hunting on a licensed game bird hunting preserve must have a current Michigan small game license or gamebird hunting preserve license.

Youth Hunting Opportunities

Youth Firearm Deer Season

There is a youth firearm deer season on September 24-25, 2005, on all lands in Michigan. Youths 12-16 years of age may take one antlered deer during this special two-day season or one antlerless deer if the youth obtained an antlerless license or possesses a DMU permit. Youths 12 and 13 years of age are restricted to archery-only hunting.

A deer license authorizing the youth to take a deer with a firearm (regular, combination), including antlerless license, or DMA permits, may be used if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. The youth must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter cannot possess or carry a firearm or bow and arrow and does not need a deer hunting license. Hunters may not use bait during this season. All youth hunters are required to wear Hunter Orange.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt-Statewide

A youth waterfowl hunt in mid-September for properly licensed youth (ages 12-15) may be authorized by federal authorities. For details, including the date of this hunt, see the 2005-2006 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide or visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting on Managed Waterfowl Areas

For a complete listing of hunting opportunities available for youth (ages 12-16) on managed waterfowl areas, see the 2005 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt Application Guide.



DISCOVER THE OUTDOORS

Michigan's state parks and state forests are more than just campgrounds. These lands provide space and resources to enjoy a variety of outdoor recreation.

You can spend weeks, months, a lifetime exploring the lakes and lands of Michigan and still find something new and exciting on each trip.

To learn more, visit us on the Web at www.michigan.gov/dnr

So get outdoors and enjoy Michigan!



Additional Hunting Rules

It is illegal to:

- Hunt or pursue wild animals or birds from a car, snowmobile, aircraft, motorboat, PWC, ORV or other motorized vehicle, or by a sailboat.
- Set fires to drive out game.
- Use snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls, deadfalls, spears, drugs, poisons, chemicals, smoke, gas, explosives, ferrets, weasels or mechanical devices other than firearms, bows and arrows or slingshots to take wild birds or animals, except as provided by trapping rules or special permit.
- Use a crossbow to take game except under permit (see page 15).
Exception: A properly licensed hunter 14 and older may use a crossbow during the November 15-30 firearm deer season.
- Buy or sell game, except as provided by trapping rules or captive wildlife permit.
- Destroy the identity of game or evidence of the sex of game while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.
Exception: See Transportation of Game, page 11, for deer, bear and elk.
- Hunt from a tree, raised platform or scaffold with a firearm.
Exceptions: Firearm bear and deer hunters may use elevated platforms. Also see 2005-2006 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for waterfowl hunting blind regulations.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol, exhilarating or stupefying drugs.
- Use cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets. A silencer or similar apparatus on a firearm is illegal.
- Camp on state land without a permit. Permits are free and are available at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks and recreation areas and state forest campgrounds.
- Make use of a dog in hunting deer except that a dog may be used to locate a down or mortally wounded deer if the dog is kept on a leash and none of the persons in attendance possess a firearm or bow and arrow. If the tracking is done at night, artificial lights ordinarily carried in the hand may be used. A dog that barks while tracking the deer shall not be used on public lands.
- Harm or harass a deer or bear when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake or other waterbody.
- Kill or wound any game without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and include it in the daily bag.
- Shoot reptiles and amphibians with a firearm (including spring, air or gas propelled).

Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting

Raccoon, opossum, coyote and fox may be hunted at night under the following regulations:

Species (Type)	Open Season	Legal Type of Hunting	Legal Artificial Light ^A	Legal Devices ^B
Raccoon (Regular)	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	With dogs only. Firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-locked except when taking raccoon in tree.	Only lights similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person. (Flashlights, portable battery-powered spotlights and headlamps, and similar portable lights designed to be carried in the hand or on the person are legal.) The use of natural light, including night vision optics and scopes, is legal.	Only a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire rifle or handgun, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot, slug, ball or cut shell, or bow and arrow.
Raccoon (Damage Control)	July 15 - Sept. 30 and Feb. 1 - March 31	Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with dogs only. Firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-locked except when taking raccoon in tree.		
Opossum	Sept. 15 - March 31	With dogs only; firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except at point of kill.		Same as above except no rifles or handguns from Nov. 15 - Nov. 30 in Shotgun Zone.
Fox and Coyote (See note below)	Oct. 15 - March 1	With game or predator call only. Firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.		
Coyote (Damage Control)	Sept. 15 - Oct. 14 and March 1 - March 31	Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with game or predator call only; firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.		

Note: After fox season closes (March 1) hunting hours for coyote return to the regular hunting hours for small game (see page 13).

^A An artificial light, including laser sights, of the type described above may be mounted on a person's clothing or firearm. Spotlights powered by vehicle batteries, floodlights, vehicle headlights and other artificial lights not similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person are illegal.

^B All hunters using a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire to take a furbearing animal, day or night, from Nov. 10 - Nov. 14, must have a fur harvester license.